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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO
37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98

Applicant(s): Mehran Mehregany et al. Docket No.: 47799.00003
Application No.: 09/677,197 Group Art Unit: 3621
Filing Date: October 2, 2000 Examiner: Kambiz Abdi
TITLE: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR ACQUISITION OF RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449.

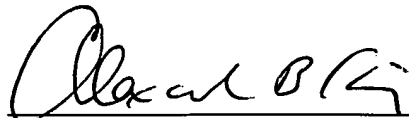
The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant reserves the right to dispute any of the listed documents as prior art during examination. Further, Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application. Furthermore, the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other material information may exist.

Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are patentable over the foregoing references, alone or in combination. The Examiner is requested to initial the enclosed Form PTO-1449 and return a copy thereof to the undersigned.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of receipt of the references in a search report from the European Patent Office as PCT searching authority and therefore no fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

Respectfully submitted,

November 17, 2003
Date

By 
Alexander B. Ching
Reg. No. 41,669

Enclosures: PTO-1449
Transmittal
Statement

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3621

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.8

I, Lisa A. Mansur, hereby certify that this correspondence, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.8, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on:

Date: November 17, 2003 By Lisa Mansur

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Submitted herewith pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) are enclosed (1) the Information Disclosure Statement, (2) Information Disclosure Citation PTO Form 1449, and (3) cited references. No certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

This statement does NOT authorize charge of the issue fee. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee specifically authorized hereafter, or any deficiency in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith or concerning any paper filed hereafter, and which may be required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.18 (deficiency only) now or hereafter relative to this Application and the resulting Official document under 37 C.F.R. §1.20, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 19-3878 for which purpose a duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

November 17, 2003
Date

By Alexander B. Ching
Alexander B. Ching
Reg. No. 41,669

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